



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

)
) Group Art Unit: 1774
) Examiner: Thompson, Camie S.
)) Mail Stan AE
) Mail Stop AF))))

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on January 12, 2004

Judi Willian

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(d), applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after a final action and is accompanied by an authorization to

charge the required \$180.00 fee to our deposit account and with a certification as specified under § 1.97(e). Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

Certification: Each document listed in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from the Japanese Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, and this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the mailing date of that communication.

Applicant has recently received the Japanese office action dated November 21, 2003 and December 2, 2003 in a corresponding Japanese application. The enclosed references were cited in the Japanese office action. Applicant's comments concerning the Japanese office action are set forth in the response accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any additional fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated:

Jan 12,2004

By:_____

Therese Hendricks Reg. No. 30,359



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Doorst No.	085 7033-00000	Appln. No.	09/868,351
Applicant	Carter et al.		
Filing Date	October 2, 2001	Group:	1774

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
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						335.3

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
	03-008375	16-01-1991	JP			English abstract
	04-014794	20-01-1992	JP			English abstract
	04-276668	01-10-1992	JP			English abstract
	09-260062	03-10-1997	JP			English abstract English translation

	OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)					
	Copy of Japanese office action dated November 21, 2003 and December 2, 2003 in corresponding Japanese Application 2000-588818.`					
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		Date Considered
		sidered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next slicant.
Form PTO 14	449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce